

Weston Commission for Children and Youth Minutes from the May 16, 2016 Meeting

In attendance: Lynn Phillips, Jeff Drobner, Allison Lisbon, Ellen Weyrauch, Shara Kolodney, Dan McNeil, Laura Kaddis, Matthew Filip, Michelle Albright, Charlene Monn, Lindsey Kapel, Danny Petty, Gillian Halper, Andi Rosenblatt

Meeting called to order at 5:49 pm by Michelle Albright.

Coordinator and Director Updates

- Michelle reported that the Weston Adult Soccer League has chosen Weston Youth Services as the beneficiary of their Memorial Day fundraiser. Michelle has met with several of their members and based on these discussions it would be great to use funds raised for a guest speaker that relates to mental health and substance use prevention.
- WYS is continuing to explore how we can most effectively collaborate with Lachat Town Farm; Ellen McCormick and Michelle have met to discuss summer camp options as well as after-school programs that could be held at the farm and administered by WYS.

Review of Program Plans and Priorities for 2015-2016

- *Programming for children ages birth-five:* Members discussed the importance of making parents of young children aware of WYS and the many services and resources it offers and providing opportunities for socialization among parents and children. Members discussed how many children in this age group are already enrolled in preschool and how some preschools already run parenting workshops/groups although they typically have low attendance. Members agreed that WYS should continue to piggyback on programs offered through the Weston Library and coordinate with HES about preschool/Kindergarten playdates prior to the start of school.
- *Transitions:* Members discussed how best to reach families and students new to Weston schools. This year WYS did provide more programming for high school students as they prepare for college, however we would like to schedule this for earlier in the year going forward. Members also discussed collaborating with parents/children who have graduated ("Grown and Flown" FB group) to identify issues/topics/skills they wish they had known.
- *School specific programming:* Although WYS continues to provide programming for parents across the schools, we would like to enhance programs for students.
- *Expand afterschool and summer programs:* WYS did offer an Election Day min-camp which was a great success, however the April mini-camp had to be cancelled due to low enrollment. Members discussed how best to promote these to families, and how to involve the schools in this promotion. We are also continuing to explore how collaborations with Lachat could expand our program offerings.
- *Collaboration with other community agencies and initiatives:* Allison Lisbon has been working with the Department of Social Services and Charlene Monn to expand our community volunteer coalition and is exploring how we can connect students and seniors.

General discussion about programming and promotion

- Members discussed whether we should focus on holding one or two larger events or continue to provide ongoing workshops that may only attract smaller audiences. Members discussed the varying attendance at Family University over the years and whether this seems like a worthwhile use of resources.

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Albright